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Borough of Buckingham.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1947.

1947.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR P. J. SMALL.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN A. E. BUSBY.

Public Health Committee

(Full Council).

Chairman : Alderman A. E. Busby.

Alderman Lord Addington.

Alderman T. H. Smith.

Councillor H. E. Cornwall.

Councillor J. S. Butler.

„ G. F. A. Downer.

„ C. H. Wagland.

„ Mrs. Downer.

„ T. Lambourne.

„ W. A. Griffiths

„ J. G. Campbell.

„ W. S. G. Thompson.

„ S. G. Williams.

„ R. J. W. Bodenham.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Retd.).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C. and Bletchley U.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer for Bucks).

Sanitary Inspector :

T. H. FARRELL, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., D.P.H.H. (Hon's).

(Appointed 6th January, 1947).

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

MISS A. CRANWELL.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

TOWN HALL,
BUCKINGHAM,
1948.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Buckingham.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the Year 1947, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

The health of the Borough has on the whole been very satisfactory.

The outstanding feature of the statistics for the year is the noted drop in both the Death Rate and the Infantile Mortality Rate, together with a slight rise in the Birth Rate.

In the sphere of Infectious Disease, we were fortunate in surviving the year's nation-wide epidemic of Infantile Paralysis without a single case, although cases occurred in practically all adjoining districts.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. Vital Statistics.

				1947	1946
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	6723	6723
Population	...	...	...	3440	3439
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1350	1181
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£22,949	£22,660
Rate per £1	...	...	...	19/8	18/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£92/11	£92

BIRTHS:				M.	F.		
Legitimate	...	..	41	36	77	76	
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2	3	3	
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	...			23.2	22.9	
"	"	"	(Bucks)	...	20.1	18.6	
"	"	"	(England & Wales)		20.5	19.1	
				M.	F.		
Still-Births	...	...	2	1	3	3	
DEATHS				12	17	29	44
Death-rate per 1,000 population	...	...			8.4	12.79	
"	"	"	(Bucks)	...	11.3	10.5	
"	"	"	(England & Wales)		12.0	11.5	
Maternal Mortality rate	...	...	...		Nil	Nil	
"	"	"	(England & Wales)		1.17	1.06	

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000							
live births	...	...	...	...	12.5	50.6	
"	(Bucks)	...	...	...	30.8	30.1	
"	(England & Wales)	...	...	...	41	43	
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	
"	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	"	"
"	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	"	"

				1947			1946		
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cancer	...	...	...	1	3	4	7	2	9
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...	1	3	4	4	3	7
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	3	1	4	3	6	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	-	1	1	3	-	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	-	1	1	2	3
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	-	1
Congenital Causes	...	..	...	-	1	1	-	2	2
TOTALS				7	10	17	19	15	34

The figures given above are, on the whole, most satisfactory. In the principal causes of death, the figures for the two most important diseases, Cancer and Heart Disease, are more than halved.

B. General Provision of Health Services.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangement made with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform pathological investigations continues. Chemical water analysis, however, has still to be sent to laboratories in London.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious diseases are transported by the ambulance of the Grove Hospital, Leighton Buzzard, or the Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury.

Non-infectious cases and accidents by the ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME remains as heretofore.

4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre*.—A centre at Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory.

(b) *Orthopædic Clinic*.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital.

(c) *Diphtheria Clinic*.—Monthly sessions were held at 19, Stratford Road.

(d) *Tuberculosis Dispensary*.—The County Tuberculosis Officer was in attendance once monthly at the dispensary, 19, Stratford Road.

(e) *Dental Clinic*.—A room in 19, Stratford Road was used as the School Dentist's Surgery.

(f) *Venereal Diseases*.—Cases were attended at the various clinics in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area:—

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Grove Hospital, Leighton Buzzard (Infectious cases).
3. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
4. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
5. Radcliffe Infirmary.
6. Wingfield-Morris.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

As in previous years, this was a matter of great concern throughout the year, both in quality and quantity. Some samples in the Gawcott area produced very bad reports. Things were not made easier by the discovery of defects in the water mains, with a not very efficient chlorinating apparatus to counter possible pollution. These defects led also to a continuance of the poor supply to the Bourton, Tingewick Road and Gawcott areas. The high daily consumption average of 50 gallons per head population was a false figure, as much of the water was running to waste through the various faults in the mains.

Towards the end of the year the situation had improved, and at time of writing is still improving, the daily consumption having been now reduced by 50,000 gallons per day.

I should like to pay tribute to the zeal and efficiency of Mr. Farrell, the Borough Surveyor, and his staff, due to whose untiring efforts these improvements have come about.

Lack of records and a detailed plan of the water mains and valves has made Mr. Farrell's work most difficult.

2. SEWERAGE.

The main disposal works at Buckingham are still overloaded and the land is mostly "sewage sick." The settlement tanks are not really functioning as they should and the pump house and fittings are out of date.

However, the works continued to function without any serious nuisance, and samples of the effluent have proved that no pollution of the river is taking place. It is hoped that the new works will go ahead as quickly as possible.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The situation regarding refuse disposal has improved since the introduction of the motor refuse collector.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Some pollution of the Ouse has occurred, but not sufficiently serious to warrant official action.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The bathing pool in the river was found to be badly polluted and the public were advised not to use it.

A proposal for a public swimming bath was mooted, but so far nothing definite has emerged. A properly constructed and controlled swimming bath is more than an amenity. Its importance in fostering physical fitness and self-reliance cannot be too strongly emphasized.

6. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and factories Act Form No. 572 has been completed.

7. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Mortuary continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

D. Housing.

There has been little change in the position as compared with the previous year. There are still too many people living in overcrowded conditions and in houses unsuitable for human habitation. However, Buckingham Borough is no worse than the rest of England in this respect and the Council are certainly doing all that is possible to alleviate the situation.

During the year twenty-six families were re-housed.

E. Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1947.

Nuisances, Contraventions of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	901
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	18
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	870
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts			Nil
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts			56
Prosecutions	...	...	Nil

Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	26
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...	...	...	3
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)					10
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	220
					<hr/>
					270

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin infested properties.

Housing Act, 1936.

It is still not practicable to carry out the routine inspections under the above Act, but 23 inspections and 14 re-inspections have been carried out.

Under the Government's scheme of priority for works of an urgent and essential character, 12 certificates of essentiality were issued during the year.

Factories Act, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting	24
Non-Mechanical Factories " " "	7
Visits paid to Factories	10

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1926—1948.

One Cowkeeper within the Borough is licensed by the County Council as a Producer of "Accredited" milk and two Cowkeepers are licensed by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold licences to bottle and retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk and one dairy is licensed to deal in "Tuberculin Tested" milk wholesale. These licences are issued by the Borough Council.

There is no pasteurising carried out in the district, except at the Wilts United Dairy, in connection with the manufacture of milk products.

Two large receiving depots in the district were periodically inspected throughout the year and found satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses and Food Supply.

The Central Slaughterhouse in Buckingham caters for the Borough and the greater part of the surrounding district. The conditions in this Slaughterhouse left much to be desired, but by co-operation of the staff employed, strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo. 62, Foods, was carried out.

158 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises, and I would like to record my appreciation of the ready and willing help accorded to me by local traders in the surrender of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 364 Beasts, 1,300 Sheep, 500 Calves and 22 Pigs were slaughtered during the year; the greatest cause for condemnation was Tuberculosis.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit ...	29
Inspections of Petroleum Stores	27

Shops Acts.

Strict supervision under the above-mentioned Acts is still not so necessary ~~as before~~ as closing hours are now far below those allowed by the Acts.

Public Conveniences.

The state of the Public Conveniences throughout the year was not of a high standard, due in some measure to the anti-social behaviour of some of the general public.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order, 1919.

Rodent Infestation Order, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received	...	...	60
Number of premises cleared of rats	...	...	120
Number of premises cleared of mice	...	...	7
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	746
Actual rats bodies found	...	...	83
Visits of Inspection and Survey	...	...	1,240
Visits for baiting and extermination	...	...	127

Water Supply.

Fourteen samples (10 bacteriological and 4 chemical) have been submitted for analysis, with the following results:—

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological samples	...	5	5
Chemical samples	...	4	Nil

The unsatisfactory bacteriological samples were obtained from the old supply at Gawcott, and the "Spout" Bath Lane. Notices were issued to the public that the water was unfit for drinking as it is not practical to close these supplies.

Permanent metal signs were fixed at every point where this water could be drawn off, stating the water was unfit for drinking.

THOMAS HENRY FARRELL,
Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

1. GENERAL.

The epidemic of Infantile Paralysis (Anterior Poliomyelitis) throughout the country caused some anxious moments, particularly towards the Autumn. Two cases were notified as suspected Infantile Paralysis, but on further investigations they proved not to be cases of this disease.

The Borough has been very free from Infectious Diseases.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

			Notified	Deaths
Tuberculosis	...	...	9	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7	Nil
Dysentery	...	...	Nil	"
Measles	...	...	3	"
Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil	"
Erysipelas	...	...	"	"

3. TUBERCULOSIS.

Nine new cases have been notified, five were of the pulmonary type and four non-pulmonary.

There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

